

REMARKS

I. ELECTION/RESTRICTION

The Examiner asserted that the originally filed claims 14-17 required election/restriction to one of four inventions as follows: Group I – claim 14, Group II - claim 15, Group III – claim 16, or Group IV – claim 17. The Examiner acknowledged that originally filed claims 1-13 and 18-20 link the inventions of claims 14-17 and indicated that upon allowability of the linking claims, the restriction requirement shall be withdrawn.

Although applicants do not necessarily agree that restriction is required in this case, as to election between claims 14-17, applicants nevertheless elect, without traverse, to pursue Group IV – claim 17 at this time. Therefore, claims 1-13, and 17-20 read on the elected invention.

II. CONCLUSION

Examination on the merits is respectfully requested. An early and favorable response is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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DATE: October 12, 2006